Dear Open Door Family,

In three weeks we will be celebrating Easter. As much as I love to celebrate the resurrection I am moved even more by the passion and suffering that my Lord Jesus went through willingly for me. May we gain insight and understanding as we think about the ALL that our Lord suffered for us. Let's look at these verses together.

Mark 14:32-36 *(NLT) They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." [33] He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. [34] He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." [35] He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. [36] "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."*

A short time before Jesus was arrested and then crucified He took time to pour out His heart to God. We can learn the following things about prayer from this passage. We see INTIMACY - in the relationship Jesus has with God. He uses the word Abba showing the closeness of the relationship. We see TRUTH - as Jesus acknowledges that ALL THINGS are possible for God. Which is a clear statement of the Power of God and His ability to act in any situation. We see His HONESTY - as Jesus asks for the cup (of God's Wrath which would require His suffering and death) to be taken away. He does not want to suffer separation from the Father, He does not want to go through God's Wrath. Finally, we see SURRENDER - and this is unconditional, full and total surrender to God's Will. Jesus prays clearly that He wants God's Will, NOT His own.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to draw closer to you through prayer. Help me to remember the Truth that You have the Power to act; help me to pour out my heart honestly to you. But above all, help me to Surrender Unconditionally to Your WILL. Lord God, make Your will clear so that I cannot miss it, no matter what.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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